

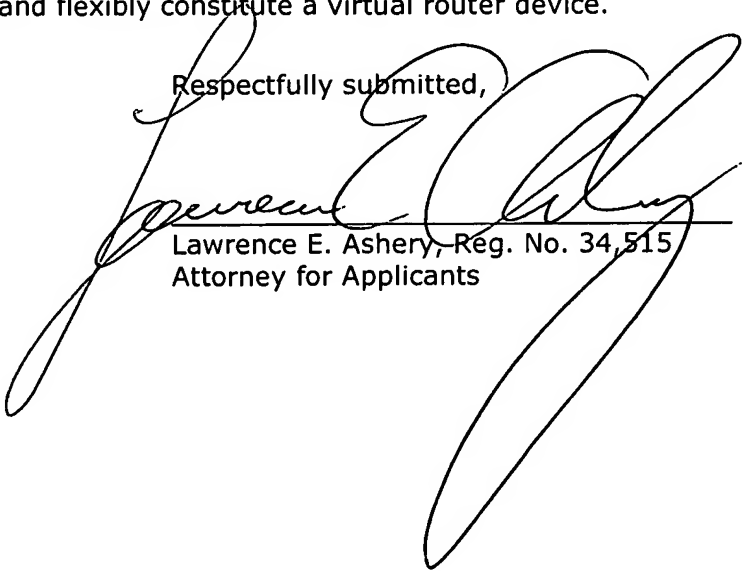
Amendment to the Abstract:

The Abstract has been amended. A revised Abstract is attached.

ABSTRACT

Physical router devices ~~(21, 22)~~ report router status information to a router priority calculation device ~~(20)~~ via a local network ~~(11)~~. According to the router status information reported, the router priority calculation device ~~(20)~~ calculates priority of each physical router device and reports the priority to the physical router devices ~~(21, 22)~~ via the local network ~~(11)~~. According to the priority reported, the physical router devices ~~(21, 22)~~ decide one master router and a backup router other than this from a plurality of physical router devices. Thus, by utilizing the priority obtained from the router status information on the physical router devices ~~(21, 22)~~, it is possible to automatically and flexibly constitute a virtual router device.

Respectfully submitted,


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LEA/fp

Attachment: Abstract

Dated: June 14, 2005

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ABSTRACT

Physical router devices report router status information to a router priority calculation device via a local network. According to the router status information reported, the router priority calculation device calculates priority of each physical router device and reports the priority to the physical router devices via the local network. According to the priority reported, the physical router devices decide one master router and a backup router other than this from a plurality of physical router devices. Thus, by utilizing the priority obtained from the router status information on the physical router devices, it is possible to automatically and flexibly constitute a virtual router device.